

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 796

By Powell

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Getahn Ward.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were saddened to learn of the passing of Getahn Ward, a tenacious and well-informed reporter for *The Tennessean*, journalism professor, church leader, and beloved figure in his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ward joined *The Tennessean* in 1998 and quickly earned a reputation as a determined reporter of the old-school variety who reveled in uncovering supposedly secret information and then fully developing the larger story underneath his initial discovery; and

WHEREAS, a master of his craft, Getahn Ward maintained a large list of contacts while covering the real estate beat for *The Tennessean* and made it his business to be intimately informed about real estate development in Nashville in both financial and human terms; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ward was called "the hardest working reporter in Nashville," and his portrait hangs outside *The Tennessean* building as a testament to his enduring influence in the city; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ward's strength of character earned him the respect of the community at large, and his selflessness and generosity as a mentor for young people, especially budding journalists, were legendary; and

WHEREAS, a born civic leader, Mr. Ward was active at his house of worship, Born Again Church, where he served as a deacon; and

WHEREAS, a native of Liberia, Getahn Ward moved to the United States in 1991 and celebrated his U.S. citizenship in 2014 by casting his first vote in an American election on his forty-second birthday; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ward began his illustrious career in journalism as a business reporter with the *Nashville Banner* after graduating from Tennessee State University, where he was editor of the campus newspaper, *The Meter*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ward furthered his belief in the promising future of his profession by teaching and mentoring journalism students at his alma mater, and he advocated for African-American journalists as a leader within the Nashville chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists; and

WHEREAS, *The Tennessean* has established the Getahn Ward Memorial Scholarship at Tennessee State University to recognize and extend Mr. Ward's commitment to the next generation of journalists; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we should honor the memory of Getahn Ward, an outstanding reporter but even finer human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we celebrate the bountiful life and honor the memory of Getahn Ward, even as we mourn his passing, reflecting fondly upon his many contributions to Nashville as a journalist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our sympathy and offer our condolences to Mr. Ward's family, friends, and colleagues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.